

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04977 160228Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4647

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4977

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, MY, TW

SUBJECT: FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN'S VISIT TO TAIWAN

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4939

1. TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN'S VISIT TO TAIWAN AND HIS STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST STATEMENTS RECEIVED WIDE AND SYMPATHETIC COVERAGE BY LOCAL PRESS DURING HIS EIGHT-DAY VISIT FROM JULY 25 TO AUGUST 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT WERE HIS ADDRESS TO THE CHINESE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION AND MEETING WITH REPORTERS ON JULY 27, HIS CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,500 US TO THE ROC MUSLIM ASSOCIATION, CONTACTS BY THE TUNKU AND HIS WIFE WITH LOCAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FRIENDS, AND HIS EXPRESSED HOPE OF GRADUALLY IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND MALAYSIA.

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2. IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE CHINESE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, THE TUNKU STRESSED THE NEED TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN ASEAN BY INVITING THE PARTICIPATION OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND SRI LANKA, AND CONTINUING THE ASSOCIATION'S JOINT EFFORTS TO SEEK REGIONAL COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. HE

STATED THAT THE WESTERN INDUSTRIAL POWERS SHOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS FROM FALLING INTO COMMUNIST HANDS, AND SECURE ACCESS TO THE REGION'S VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCES. RAHMAN SAID THAT MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SET UP DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING OUT OF FEAR OF COMMUNISM. HE EXPRESSED HIS HOPE FOR GRADUALLY IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ROC AND MALAYSIA, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY DO NOT MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC TIES. TO REPORTERS, THE TUNKU SAID ESTABLISHMENT OF US-PRC RELATIONS COULD NOT BRING PEACE TO ASIA, AND THAT ASIA WILL HAVE PEACE ONLY WHEN SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS CAN BE FREE FROM COMMUNIZATION.

3. DURING HIS VISIT, RAHMAN PAID HIS RESPECTS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK, CALLED ON PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN ON JULY 27, AND MET AMBASSADOR UNGER (AT CPSCA LUNCH), MUSLIM LEADERS, AND FOOTBALL PERSONALITIES. MRS. RAHMAN (HONORARY LIFETIME PRESIDENT OF THE ASIAN GIRLS' SOCCER ASSOCIATION) ARRIVED IN TAIPEI JULY 30 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND ASIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL GAMES, HELD FROM AUGUST 2-11, AND FORMALLY OPENED THE FIRST GAME ON AUGUST 2. ALTHOUGH NOT COVERED BY LOCAL PRESS, WE BELIEVE RAHMAN LEFT TAIPEI ON AUGUST 1 AS SCHEDULED.  
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4. AS A SIDE LIGHT TO THE VISIT, AN ARTICLE IN THE LOCAL HSIN SHENG PAO OBSERVED THAT RAHMAN WAS VERY HAPPY TO MEET HIS OLD FRIEND LI HUI-T'ANG (WELL-KNOWN FOOTBALL COACH AND PRESENT ADVISER TO THE ROC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION). LI HUI-T'ANG ESTABLISHED A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH RAHMAN WHEN LI WAS THE SECRETARY AND RAHMAN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IN 1958, AND THAT IT WAS LI WHO BROUGHT DR. HAN LI-WU (THEN ROC AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND AND PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION) TO SEE PREMIER RAHMAN IN KUALA LUMPUR, SHORTLY AFTER WHICH THE ROC AND MALAYSIA ESTABLISHED THEIR "CONSULAR RELATIONS."

5. COMMENT: THE TUNKU'S VISIT WAS POPULAR BUT LOW KEY. WHILE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. KHIR JOHARI DID ACCOMPANY RAHMAN ON THIS TRIP (REFTEL), WE WERE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT HE WAS ACTIVELY MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR A VISIT BY MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF THE TUNKU'S TRIP WAS DESIGNED TO NURTURE THE IMPROVED CLIMATE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

AS INDICATED REFTTEL, THE FAVORABLE AND BROAD PRESS  
COVERAGE COULD BE TAKEN AS A POSITIVE SIGN OF  
ACHIEVEMENT.  
UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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